



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 1335

LCO No. 4662

04662_____HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Social Services shall establish a pilot program that provides
3 developmentally appropriate early care and education services,
4 advocacy services and case management services to families with
5 children under six years of age who reside in homeless or domestic
6 violence shelters. Program objectives shall be designed to bolster the
7 health and school readiness skills of young children who lack a
8 residence due to poverty or domestic violence and to promote
9 economic self-sufficiency and housing stability for such families.

10 (b) Within available appropriations, the commissioner shall
11 annually award up to four grants to be used to further the program
12 objectives set forth in subsection (a) of this section. Publicly funded
13 homeless shelters and publicly funded domestic violence shelters that
14 serve families with children under six years of age shall be eligible for
15 such grants. Such shelters shall apply to the Department of Social
16 Services for grants at such time and in such manner as the
17 commissioner prescribes. A shelter making application for such grant

18 shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Social
 19 Services that the shelter: (1) Has an understanding of the complexity of
 20 the issues that confront families who are homeless as result of poverty
 21 or domestic violence, (2) has undertaken collaborative efforts with
 22 providers of health care services, educational services and vocational
 23 services to assist such homeless families to achieve economic self-
 24 sufficiency and transition into stable housing, (3) has a demonstrated
 25 ability to access federal funding, (4) demonstrates cultural competency,
 26 and (5) has the ability to monitor and assess the mental, physical and
 27 emotional development of any child residing in such shelter.

28 (c) Not later than January 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, the
 29 commissioner shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
 30 general statutes, on the implementation and effectiveness of the pilot
 31 program to the select committee of the General Assembly having
 32 cognizance of matters relating to children and to the joint standing
 33 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 34 relating to human services and to appropriations and the budgets of
 35 state agencies.

36 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of two hundred thousand
 37 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the
 38 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for the purpose
 39 of funding grants pursuant to section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Commissioner of Social Services to establish a program that will provide a full spectrum of services to families with young children who are homeless due to poverty or domestic violence.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]